

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10
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NEA-10 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01 DOE-15 CEQ-01
OES-07 SS-15 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 NRC-05 ACDE-00 /148 W
-----060833 261911Z /45

O 261847Z APR 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8896
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 06334

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS: PARM US UR CCD
SUBJECT: US-USSR CHEMICAL WEAPONS NEGOTIATIONS: JOINT
US-USSR STATEMENT TO CCD

REF: STATE 102569

CW MESSAGE NO.47

1. US DEL HAS DISCUSSED WITH THE SOVIET DEL THE TEXT OF
THE JOINT US-USSR STATEMENT TO BE MADE IN CCD ON THE
STATUS OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS NEGOTIATIONS AS CONTAINED IN
REFTEL. THE SOVIETS VOICED STRONG OBJECTION TO SOME OF
THE WORDING, ESPECIALLY TO THAT WHICH THEY CLAIMED PLACED
EXCESSIVE EMPHASIS ON VERIFICATION. AFTER PROLONGED
DISCUSSION, HOWEVER, THEY ACCEPTED, SUBJECT TO CLEARANCE
BY MOSCOW, THE US TEXT WITH ONLY A FEW MODIFICATIONS.
IN OUR VIEW, THE CHANGES AGREED UPON DO NOT IN ANY WAY
PREJUDICE THE US POSITION AND ACCURATELY REFLECT THE
STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS. THEREFORE, UNLESS INSTRUCTED
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DTHERWISE, WE INTEND TO PROCEED ON THE BASIS OF THE
AGREED TEXT WHICH FOLLOWS:

2. BEGIN TEXT: IN ITS RESOLUTION 32/77 OF DECEMBER 12,
1977, ON THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS, THE UNITED
NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY STRESSED THE NEED FOR EARLY
SUBMISSION OF A JOINT INITIATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF

AMERICA AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO THE CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT IN ORDER TO ASSIST IT IN ACHIEVING EARLY AGREEMENT ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, AND STOCKPILING OF ALL CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION. THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION RECOGNIZE THAT THIS RESOLUTION REFLECTS THE DESIRE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO ACHIEVE SUCH AN AGREEMENT AND THAT THIS TASK IS A HIGH PRIORITY ITEM OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT.

ALONG WITH THE WORK ON THIS PROBLEM IN THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT, SINCE AUGUST 1976, THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION HAVE CONDUCTED BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH A VIEW TO DEVELOPING A JOINT INITIATIVE ON THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND INTRODUCING IT IN THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT. ON JANUARY 10, 1978, THE SEVENTH ROUND OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN IN GENEVA, AND IT STILL CONTINUES. THE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED INTENSIVELY, THE DELEGATIONS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVING HELD NUMEROUS PLENARY AND DRAFTING GROUP MEETINGS.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION BELIEVE THAT THE FUTURE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS SHOULD MEET THE OBJECTIVE OF COMPLETE, EFFECTIVE, AND VERIFIABLE PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS, AS WELL AS PROVIDING FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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THE DESTRUCTION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND FOR THE DISPOSITION OF THE PRODUCTION BASE FOR CHEMICAL MUNITIONS AND CHEMICALS COVERED BY THE CONVENTION. IN THE COURSE OF THEIR NEGOTIATIONS, BOTH SIDES HAVE DISCUSSED ALL THE MAJOR ISSUES RELATED TO THIS OBJECTIVE.

PROGRESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN THE AREA OF SCOPE OF THE PROHIBITION. AS A RESULT OF ACCOMMODATION BY BOTH SIDES, AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE HAS NOW EMERGED ON MOST, ALTHOUGH NOT ALL, POINTS IN THIS AREA. BOTH SIDES SHARE THE OPINION OF THE MAJORITY OF CCD MEMBERS THAT THE PRINCIPAL CRITERION IN DETERMINING THE SCOPE OF THE PROHIBITION SHOULD BE THE GENERAL PURPOSE CRITERION. UNDER THAT CRITERION, SPECIFIC CHEMICALS WOULD BE PROHIBITED TO THE EXTENT THEY HAVE NO JUSTIFICATION FOR INDUSTRIAL, RESEARCH OR OTHER NON-HOSTILE CIVILIAN PURPOSES, FOR NON-HOSTILE MILITARY PURPOSES, IN PARTICULAR PROTECTIVE PURPOSES, OR FOR MILITARY PURPOSES NOT RELATED TO CHEMICAL WARFARE. BOTH SIDES HAVE ALSO REACHED THE VIEW THAT FOR THE PURPOSE OF FACILITATING VERIFICATION, IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE TO USE TWO TOXICITY CRITERIA AND CERTAIN OTHER PROVISIONS IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL PURPOSE CRITERION.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION ARE IN AGREEMENT THAT THE CONVENTION SHOULD CONTAIN PROVISIONS CLEARLY SPECIFYING THE PROCEDURE FOR DECLARING CHEMICAL WEAPONS STOCKPILES. SOME SPECIFICS OF SUCH A PROCEDURE HAVE BEEN AGREED IN PRINCIPLE. BOTH SIDES AGREE THAT STATES PARTIES TO THE FUTURE CONVENTION SHOULD ALSO MAKE DECLARATIONS RELATING TO THE PRODUCTION BASE FOR CHEMICAL MUNITIONS AND CHEMICALS COVERED BY THE CONVENTION, BUT THE ACTUAL CONTENT OF SUCH DECLARATIONS IS UNDER CONTINUED NEGOTIATION. MEASURES RELATING TO THE DISPOSITION OF THAT BASE ALSO REQUIRE FURTHER NEGOTIATION.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION BELIEVE THAT
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 06334

THE FULFILLMENT OF THE OBLIGATIONS ASSUMED UNDER THE FUTURE CONVENTION SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE IMPORTANT REQUIREMENT OF ADEQUATE VERIFICATION. THEY SHARE THE VIEW THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUCH VERIFICATION SHOULD BE BASED ON A COMBINATION OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ARRANGE-

MENTS, INCLUDING THE CREATION OF A CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE. SOME ARRANGEMENTS AND PROCEDURES HAVE BEEN AGREED UPON IN THIS AREA, BUT NO AGREEMENT HAS YET BEEN REACHED ON CERTAIN IMPORTANT ISSUES, INCLUDING SPECIFIC METHODS OF VERIFYING THE DESTRUCTION OF CHEMICAL WEAPON STOCKS AND THE DISPOSITION OF THE PRODUCTION BASE FOR CHEMICAL MUNITIONS AND CHEMICALS COVERED BY THE CONVENTION.

THE CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT IS AWARE OF THE COMPLEXITY OF THE ISSUES INVOLVED IN DEVELOPING AN ADEQUATELY VERIFIABLE DISARMAMENT MEASURE WHICH IS DESIGNED TO ELIMINATE AN ENTIRE CLASS OF WEAPONS FROM THE ARSENALS OF STATES AND WHICH ALSO AFFECTS ONE OF THE MAJOR INDUSTRIES IN MANY COUNTRIES. IT WILL ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO DESCRIBE IN GREATER DETAIL THE PROBLEMS

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REMAINING AT THIS STAGE COULD COMPLICATE BILATERAL EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THEM.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION ARE AWARE OF THE GREAT IMPORTANCE THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND THE CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT ATTACH TO THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE CONCLUSION OF A CONVENTION AND WILL CONTINUE THEIR BEST EFFORTS TO COMPLETE THE BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS IMPORTANT AND EXTREMELY COMPLEX PROBLEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

END TEXT. VANDEN HEUVEL

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